

AMERICAN CAVALRYMEN ENCOUNTER VILLISTAS; END OF BANDIT LEADER MAY BE HAD

FOUR HUNDRED TROOPERS UNDER COL. DODD ROUT MEXICANS UNDER VILLA

Seventh and Tenth Cavalry Detachments Make 55 Mile Ride Through Arroyos and Ravine, Coming Out On Villa and His Band on the San Geronimo Ranch. Latter Hits for the Hills, Being Carried Away by Friends.

(By Review Leased Wire.)

EL PASO, March 31.—Four hundred American cavalrymen, under command of Colonel Geo. A. Dodd, while riding down from the slopes of the great continental divide, have fallen like a thunderbolt on the main body of Pancho Villa's bandits at the San Geronimo Ranch, scattering them like chaff in the wind and driving the bandit chief, wounded and crippled for life, to seek a hiding place in the mountains over which he has ruled for so many years. Villa was hurried from danger in carriage.

The battle opened at six o'clock in the evening of March 29. The bare facts of the brilliant exploit of the American troopers were told over the Mexican wires today and sent a thrill down the border. For seventeen hours the veteran, Colonel Dodd, and his picked riders of the Seventh Cavalry and Tenth Cavalry, drove down the valley of the Santa Maria river. At the end of a fifty mile ride they burst upon the unsuspecting Villista camp where 500 bandits were celebrating the massacre of 172 Carranzistas, a couple of days previous, at Guerrero. Villa, shot through the leg and with one hip hopelessly shattered, was hurried from the scene barely in time to escape the onslaught of the soldiers of the north.

The bandit made a brief but hopeless stand before the fierce charge of Col. Dodd and his troopers. Then he broke and fled leaving them on the field, including their commander, General Eliseo Hernandez, to machine guns, a number of horses, rifles, ammunition and equipment into the hands of the victors. Among the known wounded is Pablo Lopez, Villa's lieutenant in the Columbus raid. The American losses were no privates wounded.

But the American soldiers did not linger on the field of victory. For hours they drove the enemy before them into the wilderness of mountain peaks, desert and canyon where roads or even trails are unknown where a misstep means death to horse and rider. They halted only when the chase had led them 10 miles from the battlefield and the fugitives were scattered far and wide in little bands of half a dozen men.

Villa's career has ended. His power has broken. His death or capture is only a question of days, perhaps only hours, such is the inevitable decision reached here, as little as the details of Col. Dodd's ride deep across the border. It seems impossible that the crippled, defeated bandit can long remain hidden even in the mountainous wastes in which he has sought a refuge.

The last outrage placed to the account of Villa, and probably the most murderous exploit of which he will ever boast, occurred at Minaca, a town about 10 miles southeast of Guerrero on the Orient Railway. Here the Villistas are supposed to have murdered a mine foreman named Herman Plankenburg and two other foreigners. It is feared that the two unknown victims are Americans, Four Americans—Acklin, Hemple, Locke and Dr. Stell—are known to have been recently in or near Minaca. It is not certain that Villa himself took part in these murders as it is hardly likely he made his way from Minaca to the Guerrero section in the time elapsed between the murder of the three foreigners and the battle on the Ranch.

Some time before the crime of Minaca, Villa descended on Guerrero where he slaughtered all the Carranzistas he could find. After the battle on the San Geronimo ranch, the American soldiers released a large number of General Carranza's men whom the bandit chief was holding to ransom at his leisure. It is probable that it was at the Guerrero massacre that Villa was wounded.

The scene of Col. Dodd's victory is a broad valley lying at the head of the Rio Santa Maria. On the west rise the barren foothills of the great continental divide and to the east is a trail made famous by Villa, which leads through the Laguna de Castilla district to the ill-fated Santa Isabel. The latter is the place where Villa shot in cold blood 18 American mining men, a crime which sent a thrill of horror throughout the United States and marked the beginning of the end of his blood-stained career. It was Santa Isabel that he was believed to be heading for when troopers of the United States came down upon him.

From the meagre details which have reached here from Mexican military sources, Col. Dodd's men made their way unopposed through the arroyos, or deep gulches which split the foothills in all directions and were almost in the camp before the alarm was given. Villa is reported to have been in a small tent nursing his injuries when the crash of the American volley awoke the bandits to panic-stricken action.

Unable to walk or ride he was hastily placed in a light wagon and driven over the rough mountain trails to some secret lair. While thirty of the bandits are known to have been killed, it is said that the number may have been considerably larger. Nothing is yet known as to the number of wounded although it is presumably in proportion to the dead.

Excitement in El Paso and along the border is at fever heat in expectation that at any moment the wires may flash the news of Villa's death or capture. Two days have already elapsed since the battle of San Geronimo and it is not believed that the bandit can escape in his crippled and

helpless condition. The one great factor that is relied on to bring about his death or capture is the certainty that his prestige is gone. The ignorance of the peons, who clung to Pancho Villa as their leader and hero, was the strongest asset he possessed. The most absurd lies were fed to them concerning Villa's exploits and were implicitly believed. It is certain that the majority were sure their hero would have an easy victory over the Americans, and that he was invincible.

FUNSTON OPTIMISTIC.
SAN ANTONIO, March 31.—Thirty of Villa's soldiers killed, four American soldiers wounded and more than 450 Mexicans dispersed after a running fight that extended over ten miles, is the condensed summary of the story of the first engagement between the American punitive expedition and Francisco Villa.

Col. Dodd surprised one hundred of Villa's men at Guerrero March 29. His was the smaller force, comprising detachments of the Seventh and Tenth Cavalry, but without waiting he began the attack that finished five hours later when the Villa forces had been chased into the hills northeast of Guerrero and broken into small bands. General Pershing's report reached General Funston today. It was filed at San Geronimo but whether General Pershing was still there today was regarded as unlikely by army officers here, and less likely that Col. Dodd was at Guerrero. Villa was not with the defeated and Col. Dodd was believed to be forcing his cavalry to the utmost in his hunt down before an opportunity was found for him to reconnoiter his scattered men. It was reported to army headquarters here that Villa was wounded, that one of his legs was broken and one of his hips badly bruised. The dispatch suggests that perhaps he had been injured in falling from his horse rather than by a gunshot as had been officially announced. Col. Dodd attacked the Mexicans at six o'clock, according to General Pershing's report, but whether the forenoon or in the afternoon was not stated.

The four men lost by Col. Dodd were enlisted men. It was not known at General Funston's headquarters that Villa and considerable force of his men were in that part of the country. Reports that he attacked the small garrison at Guerrero and had killed more than 150 of its soldiers had been confirmed and it also was reported that he had occupied Minaca, a short distance south of Guerrero. General Cavazos, commander of the Carranza forces operating in that district, had reported to his government a skirmish with Villa's men at Guerrero.

Scouts had brought to General Pershing information that made him believe that the plans Villa had under way had resulted in the gathering of several hundred men the hope that the bandit can escape in his crippled and

(Continued on Page Two.)

DEATH OR THE CAPTURE OF VILLA NOW EXPECTED

War Department Expects Gen. Pershing's Columns to Make an End to Notorious Bandit Within Few Days.

COMMANDING OFFICERS
CONGRATULATED

Congress Takes Time to Listen to the Telegram of Colonel Dodd's Exploit in Running "Fox" to His Lair.

(By Review Leased Wire.)

WASHINGTON, March 31.—With Villa's main command shattered by Colonel Dodd's cavalry dash, the War Department expects that the death or capture of the bandit leader himself and the successful conclusion of the punitive expedition against his raiders will follow more quickly than had at first been anticipated. Everywhere tonight satisfaction over the exploit of Col. Dodd and his men is expressed. Secretary Baker's congratulations were sent in his message from Major General Scott, chief of staff, to Major General Funston on the border:

"The Secretary of War desires you to convey to General Pershing and Colonel Dodd and their commands his hearty congratulations on their exploit."

On behalf of the President, the White House authorized a similar expression. In Congress the news caused a demonstration of cheers and applause in the House when Speaker Clark interrupted proceedings to read General Pershing's dispatch. Debate on the army increase bill was halted for the reading of the telegram in the Senate. It was sent to the vice-president's desk by Senator Warren of Wyoming, General Pershing's father-in-law.

Officials anxiously awaited further news. Army officers believed it probable that in the hours since the first word of the skirmish was received it is possible that even Villa himself had been found.

Tonight Secretary Baker issued the following statement:

"The success of Col. Dodd in catching up with the retreating bandits and dispersing them shows the value and effectiveness of the preparations made by Gen. Funston for the dash."

"It is a matter of general gratification to us all that the first encounter is so decisive and that our own troops have suffered so little."

"The effect on both sides of the border will probably be great, and among the Mexican people it will show singleness of our purpose and thus discourage other bandits from sympathetic demonstrations."

"This comes as a very great relief and gives strong ground to hope that the object of the expedition can be accomplished speedily."

Praise was given in all quarters to Colonel Dodd, the veteran cavalry officer who rode with his command continuously for 17 hours, covered 55 miles and then engaged in a five hour fight. Col. Dodd is 64 years of age. He will be retired on account of age next July.

He was appointed to the military academy from Pennsylvania. He commanded the Third Cavalry during the Apache outbreak in Arizona, and distinguished himself during the Spanish American war, participating in the battle of San Juan Hill. He is declared to have been the first to suggest the now famous "monkey drill" of cavalry training.

For some time Colonel Dodd had charge of recruiting at Columbus Barracks, Ohio, and is credited by Adjutant General McCain with having done much to reduce army desertions, although a strict disciplinarian.

Among the West Point classmates of Colonel Dodd was Colonel Slocum, commanding the Thirteenth Cavalry, which was raised by Villa at Columbus, and who is with the United States expedition. Inspector General Garlington, another classmate, said tonight that Dodd was known in the army for his fearlessness.

The Seventh Cavalry is famous as the regiment which was wiped out in the Custer Massacre and was cut to pieces in the Wounded Knee affair in 1891, the last of the big Indian fights. That the Villa prisoners taken and the Carranza soldiers released by Col. Dodd's victory might aid General

(Continued on Page Three.)

MORE REVENUE WANTED

LONDON, March 31.—It is understood that several new sources of revenue will be tapped by Reginald McKenna, the chancellor of the exchequer in the budget to be introduced in the House of Commons next Tuesday. The chancellor has made a thorough study of a method for reaching incomes which are below the present maximum limit. On the other hand, it is believed that the super-tax on big incomes may be increased.

MAKING UP TIME RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRIBLE WRECK

Federal and State Investigation Continue Probe Into Disaster on New York Central at Amherst.

(By Review Leased Wire.)

CLEVELAND, March 31.—That all three of the New York Central trains that were piled up in a wreck at Amherst, Ohio, on Wednesday morning, costing the lives of at least 28 people and injury to more than 40, were racing through dense fog in an effort to make up lost time, that the signal block system was defective and that no particular man was to blame, was the outstanding feature of evidence taken today at the investigation to fix responsibility for the wreck.

The inquiry will continue tomorrow. That criminal proceedings under the state law are probable, became known tonight. The witnesses at the inquiry today were all railroad men, closely connected with the accident, which resulted so disastrously. Although Albert, the young signal tower man, upon whom some of the railroad officials at first placed the blame, denied that he was asleep or even sleepy by reason of a long watch at the bedside of his sick wife. "The signal failed to work," Ernest said.

F. E. Bausch, night dispatcher for the New York Central lines in Cleveland, previously had given testimony to the effect that the signal block system frequently had been found defective, especially when storms or severe weather prevailed. From Bausch it was elicited that all three of the trains were running behind their schedules and that the first of train No. 86 had reduced its lost time from 21 minutes to only two minutes in the run from Toledo to near Amherst where the wreck occurred.

Bausch contended, however, that the fog was not general but was confined to Amherst and vicinity.

W. H. Belp, of the interstate commerce commission, told Bausch that the evidence seemed conclusive that the fog was general and not confined to Amherst as Bausch had testified.

FIVE ZEPPELINS RAID EASTERN COUNTIES OF ENGLAND LAST NIGHT

No Details of Loss by Death or Destruction Had From the British Officers. Ninety Bombs Are Dropped.

(By Review Leased Wire.)

LONDON, April 1.—Five Zeppelin airships raided the eastern counties of England last night, according to an official announcement just issued. Thus far it has been reported that about 20 bombs were dropped by the invaders.

An official statement regarding the raids says:

"An air raid took place last night over the eastern counties in which five Zeppelins are believed to have taken part. All the raiders crossed the coast at different places and times and steered different courses."

"At present about ninety bombs are reported to have been dropped in various localities in the eastern counties, but the results are not known."

"It is further reported that hostile airships visited the north coast, but no details have been received."

WOLFGANG LOSES.

RACINE, Wis., March 31.—Ever Hammer of Chicago had a shade on the veteran, Ad Wolfgang, in a round bout here tonight. The high are lightweights.

ACTIVITY OF CARRANZA'S TROOPS IS WORRY

Much Local Speculation Indulged in by Douglas People Regarding the Movement of Calles Soldiers.

MOBILIZATION OF
12,000 IS SCHEME

Military Governor Plans to Dispose of Several Thousand Acres of Land to the West of Agua Prieta.

(By Review Leased Wire.)

DOUGLAS, March 31.—Activity in troops movements northward towards the Arizona border has caused much local speculation as to its meaning and there is a revival of the uneasiness in the city.

This morning a command of four hundred infantry left Agua Prieta, marching westward on the road leading to Naco. The detachment of one thousand cavalry which arrived in Agua Prieta from the east last night, under command of Lieut. Col. Jesus Aguirre, had disappeared this morning and nothing could be seen of the men in Agua Prieta today. It was currently reported that they had gone to Caballona during the night. There is no official confirmation.

Passengers arriving on today's train from Nacozari, reported that they passed approximately one thousand cavalrymen of the command of General Arnulfo Gomez, riding northward. The head of the column had reached Escondido when the train passed through. A small command of the Thirty-third Sonora regiment arrived in Agua Prieta last night from Hermosillo, via Naco. The men said that they did not know the exact location of the remainder of the regiment, but it had gone southward toward Nacozari.

Mexican sources now report the entire force in the Moctezuma-Cumpas and Nacozari districts to be approximately five thousand. From the same source comes the report that six thousand or more are scattered from Caballona, eighteen miles south of here, and eastward, in touch with the Caballona creek and Cenizas camping places; that a consolidation of these forces is being effected not in one camp but within a short marching distance of each other.

Mexican officers in friendly and confidential conversation with the Americans are quoted as placing the entire consolidation now being effected at twelve thousand soldiers.

The plan of General P. Elias Calles, military governor of Sonora, to dispose of several thousand acres of land confiscated by the state from owners who espoused the cause of Diaz, was announced this afternoon by Ives G. Levelev, defacto Mexican consul here, who said it had been outlined to him by General Calles.

All lands on the west side of Agua Prieta, which are subject to irrigation from the Agua Prieta river, will be divided into small tracts and put on the market at about ten pesos per acre. The title will carry the provision that the new owners must cultivate the land or it will be forfeited to the government. All the land included formerly belonged to the Morales and Canon estates, as did the town site of Agua Prieta, which has also been seized by the state government.

The funds obtained from this sale will be used in construction of municipal building in Agua Prieta, the consul said.

While General Carranza, head of the defacto government, has not finally approved the recent decree of General Calles confiscating all lands from enemies of the government, such lands have been seized and are being held by the state.

Calles plans, while in Hermosillo, for which place he will start tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock, to issue a more radical decree than any of his predecessors. He has in course of preparation a document announcing that state taxes will be assessed on a graduated scale. The owner of a small tract of land who cultivates his holdings, will escape lightly. The large land holders will be assessed increasingly heavy taxes, according to the decree.

The same law will apply to unimproved property. The tax on improvements will be light but on vacant lots will be correspondingly heavy. The intention of General Calles, as he is

(Continued on Page 5)

MEN MUST HANG.

PHOENIX, March 31.—The supreme court denied writs of habeas corpus today to Francisco Rodriguez, N. B. Chavez, Miguel Ferrata and Edward Perez, Mexicans under sentence of death for murder. The men were ordered by the court to be taken from state prison at Florence to the counties where they were convicted to be re-sentenced.

They were repeatedly re-primed, twice by intervention by the department of State.

NEUTRALITY IS ONLY BROKEN SAYS DARING GERMAN

Ernest Schiller is Hurried to New York Because of Fear that Friends Would Attempt to Rescue Him.

(By Review Leased Wire.)

LEWIS, Del., March 31.—Fearing that attempts would be made to rescue Ernest Schiller, the young German stowaway who, single handed, captured the British steamer Matoppe and her crew of 56 men on the high seas, detectives tonight took Schiller from his cell in the town jail and hurried him by automobile to Burlington from where he will be taken by train to New York.

The detectives declared they had received positive information that attempts would be made to rescue the prisoner and with the consent of the local authorities they decided that it would be safer in New York.

Schiller, readily consented to go, saying he would do anything to keep out of the hands of the British officials. During the afternoon Schiller was given a hearing before Justice of the Peace Register, and made a detailed statement as to his motives in stating what he terms a privateering expedition.

Revenge against England for arresting him as a spy, as well as the spoils he expected to secure, he declared, were the impelling motives. He was uncertain, he said, whether the four men he had picked up to accompany him had abandoned the enterprise.

"They were not German," he declared, "I was the only German concerned and only for my hard luck, I would have turned a better trick than the Moewe when it captured the Appam. I was terribly handicapped by depending on bums and crooks to assist me."

"In making war on England I am guilty of nothing more than a breach of neutrality laws of this country. I was peacefully practicing my profession of textile engineer in Hull, England, when the war broke out. A friend of mine was arrested. Charged with signalling with calcium lights to the raiding Zeppelins, he was shot and I was arrested. I had committed no offense, but I was shut up in a dirty jail and greatly humiliated, although there was no evidence against me."

Schiller here halted his recital long enough to request assurances that this government would take charge of the case, and that he would not be surrendered to Great Britain. He was told that this was a matter to be determined later.

"I told the Hull officials that if they persisted in persecuting me, on account of my German nationality they would pay for it dearly. They could find no excuse for shooting me, so they punished me by exiling me from the country and so I came to America. I spent some time in Danbury New Haven and Bridgeport, Conn., and finally went to Boston where I secured employment with a textile company."

"All the time I was thirsting for revenge on England and I used to lie awake at nights trying to think of some scheme. Then it occurred to me that it would be much simpler for a prize to run the British blockade. I went to Hoboken with my plans fully formulated and there got together my gang picking out four of the most likely looking fellows to accompany me on the expedition. I told them I was out to capture a British steamer and make it my yacht and that we could claim the ship as a prize."

"When I went aboard the Matoppe I had been told it was another boat, the El Sparto, I think and that it carried at least 110,000 and a cargo of munitions for the allies. I don't know whether they are on board the El Sparto, but if they are I wish them good luck and hope they go ahead with my plan and win out."

Schiller said he did not regret what he had done and would do it again if he had the chance.

(Continued on Page Three.)

ATTACK MADE ON PART OF SENATE'S BILL

Federalization of the National Guard is Denounced in Senate as Unconstitutional and Illogical by Several.

PARTY LINES ARE
SWEEP ASUNDER

Secretary Daniels Again Before House Naval Committee With Recommendations for 1917 Program.

LEAD CONGRESS

(By Review Leased Wire.)

SENATE—

Met at noon. Resumed debate on the army reorganization bill.

HOUSE—

Met at noon. Secretary Daniels continued his testimony before the naval committee. SENATE—

Recessed at 5:45 p. m. to noon Saturday.

Began debate on annual rivers and harbors bill.

Judiciary committee decided to submit to the House for a vote on the resolution holding U. S. District Attorney Marshall of New York against whom impeachment charges are pending in contempt of the House. Adjourned at 5:30 to noon Saturday.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Attack on the provisions for raising a federal volunteer force and for the federalization of the national guard featured the debate in the Senate today on the army increase bill.

Senator Cummins, Republican, offered an amendment to strike out the federal volunteer section and was joined by Senator Hoke Smith, Democrat in championing the state troops as the main force to be relied upon as a reserve for the regular army. Senator Gallinger, the Republican leader, and Senator Grandge attacked the constitutionality of the proposed federalization of the National Guard.

On the other hand, Senator Weeks, Republican, praised the bill and the Chamberlain substitute of the House bill. Senator Thomas, Democrat, spoke at length on the question of national preparedness, but belittling the expedition force of militarists in the United States was in danger of foreign invasion.

"Those who fear an invasion by a European power," he said, "if they will admit it, picture in their imaginations the advancing helmets of German soldiers."

Senator Cummins commended the provision for increasing the standing army, because present relations with Mexico necessitated a great military force. "I think we ought to increase the regular army as much as possible," he said. "I am fearful, however, that the increase provided for will not be found. The army is not attractive to young men. The compensation is small, the duties are repugnant and, except in times of grave danger when a high pitch of patriotism is aroused, I am afraid we will not be able to recruit any considerable army."

DANIELS IN HOUSE
WASHINGTON, March 31.—Secretary Daniels touched on all sides of the naval preparedness program in continuing his testimony today before the House Naval Committee. He proposed various modifications in addition to the bill endorsed by President Wilson, including the elimination entirely of the provisions for great sea submarines in the 1917 estimate.

Instead of an appropriation for larger vessels the secretary suggested a smaller type be built for test purposes. Thirty L type or K type boats may be the number agreed upon.

Other new features proposed by Mr. Daniels were:

Construction of a great dry dock at Norfolk and possibly at Philadelphia; establishment of a marine aviation and submarine base at San Diego, California; study of the Pacific Coast to determine the best locations for an additional navy yard there, probably at Los Angeles or San Diego; expenditure of \$175,000 to clear the approach to the Charleston, S. C. yard for heavy draft ships, and authorizing the rank

(Continued on page three)